



# SSDA Bulletin No. 1

November 1984

## Getting to know you ...

The SSDA pamphlet accompanying this bulletin gives a quick summary of the activities of the SSDA. We hope you will stop to read this brief introduction to our organisation and that it will not only whet your appetite for more information but will also encourage you to make use of the services of the SSDA such as accessing data, informing us of possible future acquisitions, or depositing something yourself.



## Data? What data?

An updated edition of the SSDA Data Catalogue has just been released. The Catalogue is a guide to data sets deposited with SSDA which are available to researchers for the purpose of secondary analysis. Coverage now includes 330 Australian data sets from academic, government and private organisations, plus Australian Census and overseas data sets.

A detailed abstract of each data set includes information on the personnel involved in the study, the research topic and a summary of variables, the sample population, sampling procedures, data collection, size of the data set, and publications resulting from the study. Subject and investigator indexes are also included to aid users of the Catalogue.

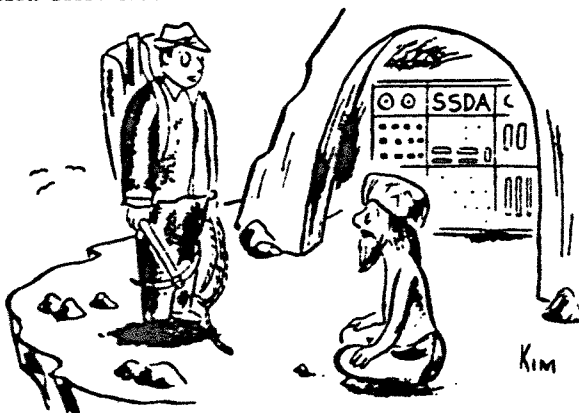
The general data sets include the bulk of Australian opinion polls undertaken since World War II, a large drug use survey collection, and a wide range of individual studies covering issues in the fields of political science, sociology, economics, finance, education, psychology, law, labour and employment, demography, human environment, culture and humanities, communication and information, life sciences, physical and environmental sciences and technology.

If your department has not yet purchased a copy of the Catalogue, contact the SSDA for an order form.



## ACSPRI

The Australian Consortium for Social and Political Research Incorporated (ACSPRI) is an organisation of research institutions concerned with the acquisition, preservation, distribution and processing of machine-readable social science data. The SSDA acts as an agent for ACSPRI in dealing with requests from members for data and supplying codebooks and related information to the ACSPRI representatives. Also, the ACSPRI Newsletter is produced twice yearly at the SSDA, Number 10 having just been released (October, 1984). More details on ACSPRI will be given in future SSDA Bulletins.



"To what do you owe your great wisdom and knowledge?"

## Putting us to work

The SSDA pamphlet outlines access and deposit procedures. The possible uses of the SSDA are many and, we believe, very important. First, there is the straight 'recycling' function that an archive can perform. Some variables in an existing data set may have been under-analysed and, instead of undertaking a whole new study, a secondary analyst can save the time and expense involved in data collection and documentation, and will also avoid the duplication of data. Similarly, comparative analysis is allowed much greater flexibility and accuracy when the raw data is used in preference to the final output of the original investigator.

Another area in which the SSDA can be of great benefit is in the provision of data sets to be used in the teaching of data analysis and related courses. This has the advantage of using true data (which might also be qualitatively relevant) and allows the teacher to use data sets that are larger and more flexible than those usually available for such a purpose.

Charges are necessary in order to cover production costs and they vary with the nature of the request. Larger data sets cost more, calculated on a stepwise scale based on the number of card images in the file. Also, substantial reductions are given to researchers based in ACSPRI member institutions. Details of charges are available from the SSDA.

Researchers who have collected important data recently should consider depositing it with the SSDA. After deposit of a data set, the researcher will have all documentation and raw data checked and neatly summarised, and will have some insurance against loss or damage to the data. Prospective depositors are strongly urged to contact the SSDA.



## Sprechen sie Deutsche?

As already mentioned the SSDA holdings include some data sets deposited from overseas. This is generally the result of exchange agreements with Data Archives in other countries. The SSDA also has catalogues and other information on facilities in the United States, England, Canada, West Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden, Denmark and Norway, and can mediate for data requests from these places.

In particular the SSDA administers Australian national membership of ICPSR at the University of Michigan, USA on behalf of ACSPRI members, for whom an ICPSR guide can be made available free of charge. ACSPRI has also established data exchange agreements with the ESRC Data Archive at the University of Essex, England and the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, USA.



## ACSPRI Summer Program

The first ACSPRI Summer Program in Quantitative Social Science Methods will be held at Monash University from 2-15 February, 1985. The program has been extensively advertised, however for more information contact:

Dr. David Kemp (03 541 2402)  
Dr. Terence Beed (02 692 3624)  
Dr. Roger Jones (062 49 4400)

Applications close on 29th November.

This bulletin was produced by the Social Science Data Archives, Australian National University, GPO Box 4, Canberra, A.C.T., 2601. ((062) 49 4400 or 49 3809).



## Briefly

SSDA Bulletin No.1 provided a general introduction to the activities and services of the Social Science Data Archives. This issue expands on that theme by discussing some data currently available in our collection and some possible uses of it. As readers of the SSDA Data Catalogue will know, some of the present data sets are from individual studies, often in very specialised areas, while others are related either through the same research team, or due to similarities in the topics investigated. The data sets discussed below are examples of such groups now available for user access.



## Using the SSDA — An Example

A topical and very important social issue in Australia is the prevalence of drink-driving and the measures adopted to prevent it. The SSDA holds a number of data sets on this theme.

An excellent example of SSDA data in the drink-driving area is provided by two recently acquired studies from the Traffic Authority of New South Wales. Two near-identical surveys were conducted before and after a state government advertising campaign on the introduction of random breath-testing in N.S.W. Attitudes to drink-driving, knowledge of breath-testing and drink-driving laws, and drinking habits were among the main variables studied. As yet, no publicly available reports have been released, and much potential exists for secondary analysts to explore those parts of the data of most interest to them. The in-built comparative nature of these two data sets is an added bonus.

The Road Safety and Traffic Authority of Victoria completed a similar survey in 1979. Although the Victorian data is 4 years older than that from N.S.W., its original collection purpose was to assist with publicity campaigns on drink-driving. As such, the main variables are similar to those in the N.S.W. studies, making comparisons quite relevant. It may even be possible to select equivalent variables from each file and create a new merged file to be analysed in direct comparison (using appropriate methodological caution!).

The SSDA is currently awaiting the release of a unit record tape from the A.B.S. (S.A.) for the October 1983 State Supplementary Survey on Alcohol Consumption Patterns. Although this survey was not related to a

random breath-testing campaign, the variables studied included drinking behaviour, attitudes toward random breath tests, and knowledge of blood-alcohol limits, so comparability with the data mentioned above may be possible.

Other indirectly related data sets in the archives include a study of under-age drinking in the Northern Territory, two N.S.W. surveys of drivers (one of truck drivers and one of general vehicle drivers), an assessment of a drink-driver program in the Illawarra, N.S.W., and a survey of breath-alcohol levels of the general driving population in Adelaide.

It is unlikely that any one researcher would want to use all the data just described, however the availability of such a wide range of data in the same interest area gives researchers more scope in which to pursue their specific studies in greater detail.



## More Where That Came From

Another large body of data in the SSDA holdings is the A.B.S. Census of Population and Housing data for the years 1966, 1971, 1976 and 1981. Summary characteristics, cross-tabulations and descriptive information files are all available. For details of these files see Section II of the SSDA Data Catalogue, or contact the SSDA. The A.B.S. has also recently released unit record files for the 1981-82 Income and Housing Survey (a copy of which has been acquired by the SSDA) and for the National Energy Survey, 1982-83. Other A.B.S. releases available through the SSDA include a unit record tape of unidentified persons data from the Australian Health Survey, 1977-1978, and three Australian Health Insurance Surveys (1981, 1982, 1983).

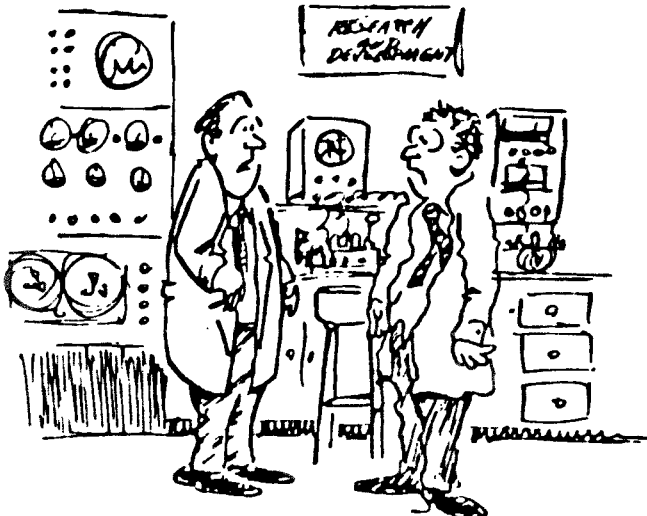
Future bulletins will contain pieces about other specific types of data as they become available through the SSDA.



## New Database

The SSDA is currently in the process of developing a database containing profiles of significant data collections undertaken in Australasia in the 1980s. Descriptive entries will contain details such as study participants, timeframe of the study, sampling information, references, and a short abstract of the study.

It is anticipated that, once fully developed, this will become a public access database. Its main purpose is to locate studies which the SSDA does not have in its collection, and thus it will act as a complement to the SSDA Data Catalogue. However it will also contain studies for which the SSDA has, or expects to receive, materials. As such it will become a comprehensive bibliographic service to major social science data sets of the 1980s. Any readers who can help with contributions to this database are asked to contact the SSDA.



"SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DON'T USE THE SSDA"



### A Mixed Bag

In this issue we present a small selection of recent data acquisitions plus details of similar data received at earlier times, which we hope will suggest the variety of what is available from the SSDA. These data sets will be of most interest to researchers in the fields of sociology, criminology, behavioural science and health studies. If your interests are elsewhere, don't panic! We are sure to mention something for you soon.

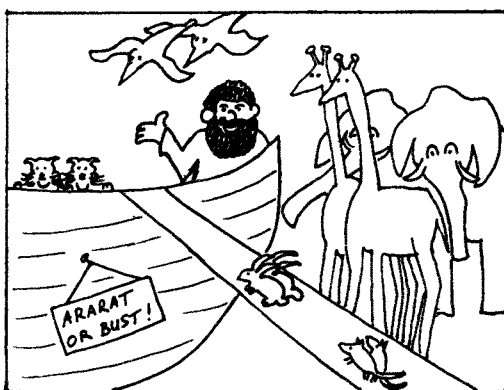
### Take Your Partners



An important new addition to our holdings is the data from the Australian Institute of Family Studies 1981 project on Family Formation. An Australia-wide sample of 18-34 year olds was used in this, the first stage of a longitudinal panel study. The purpose was to identify factors influencing decisions to leave home, to establish sexual relationships, to marry and to have children; and to detect changes and trends in these processes in Australia in the eighties.

The questionnaire was divided into the following categories: present household structure, childhood family and mobility, parents' characteristics, respondent's (and partner's) characteristics including education, occupational history, living at home and leaving, relationships and sex patterns, children and families, attitudes to social issues, and socio-economic indicators.

The SSDA also holds data for 3 related studies on Family Formation undertaken at the ANU (Caldwell et al, 1971, 1977). The first two were conducted in 1971, sampling married women under 60 in Melbourne and Queanbeyan respectively. The third was conducted in Melbourne in 1977 and was in three parts -- a follow-up to 1971, a sample of recently married women, and a sample of 18-25 year old unmarried persons. Major topics of all three surveys were contraception, fertility, sexual attitudes, family life and issues, and attitudes to related social issues.



"JUST THINK OF ALL THE FAMILY FORMATION STUDIES I COULD DO!"

This Bulletin was produced by the Social Science Data Archives, Australian National University, GPO Box 4, Canberra, A.C.T., 2601. ((062) 49 4400 or 49 3809).

### And Justice For All

The Australian Institute of Criminology has compiled a Source Book of Australian Criminal and Social Statistics from 1900-1980 (Mukherjee et al, 1981). The SSDA has acquired the data files used in the production of this book.

Statistics at the national and state levels are available in the following areas: police data, crimes reported and cleared, offences in Magistrates' and Higher Courts (against the person, against property, against good order, forgery and uttering, and petty offences), and prison data.

Social statistics include counts of population, marriage, divorce, male:female ratio, urbanisation, unemployment, workforce, GDP, car registrations and life expectancy.

The A.I.C. is currently preparing an update to this file, with some 19th century data, and more recent figures, as well as filling gaps in the current set. It is hoped that a copy of this data will be deposited with the SSDA when it is ready.

### The Social Set



A team of ANU sociologists conducted a major social mobility project in 1973, following on from a 1965 baseline study of social stratification in Australia (Broom et al, 1977). Data from these two studies was deposited with the SSDA some time ago.

In the early study social rank was measured in five ways - income, occupation, education, subjective social class identification, and interviewer's assessment of 'economic class'. The 1973 study involved replicating the first study, but included more details on family background, education and class images, and sampled a broader range of respondents.

During these studies some occupational codings based on status levels were developed from ABS groupings. A 100 category code was developed from the 1965 study. This was upgraded into a more detailed classification following the 1973 study. A machine-readable version of both of these ANU status scales has recently been deposited with the SSDA.

### Up in Smoke



Another recent acquisition is a smoking survey conducted in 1983 by the Anti-Cancer Council of Victoria. Topics covered included the respondent's smoking history, perceived advantages and disadvantages of quitting, attitudes of others, understanding of the health risks, and attitudes to cigarette company advertising and sponsorship.

Similar studies were conducted by the A.C.C.V. in 1974 and 1980. The data from these surveys is also in the SSDA holdings. This is a big research area and we would be interested in hearing about other smoking surveys performed elsewhere.



August 1985

## ACSPRI Summer Program

With winter on its way out, our thoughts turn to warmer days and, of course, the 2nd ACSPRI Summer Program in Quantitative Social Science Methods. Details of the Summer Program have been circulated to your department with this Bulletin. We hope to see you there.



## ABS Survey Data Releases

We were recently notified by the ABS of the forthcoming release of unit record data from the 1982 Family Survey (see ABS Cat. No. 4408.0 for survey details). The file will contain separate records at 4 levels - households, families, income units and persons - allowing analysis of characteristics at each level. In addition, it will be possible to link records across levels to allow analysis of, for example, families comprising persons with certain characteristics. This will be a timely data release in light of the SSDA's growing body of data on family studies (see Bulletin No. 3), and we will keep you informed as to its availability in a future issue.

The availability of a unit record file for the 1981-82 Income and Housing Survey was briefly mentioned in SSDA Bulletin No. 2. The file contains two types of linked records, one for persons and one for income units. The survey obtained information both on a last financial year basis (in respect of 1981-82) and on a current basis, details of housing occupancy and costs and some aspects of trade qualifications, life insurance and superannuation. The SSDA acquired a copy of the TPL descriptor file from the ABS and has produced a labelled SPSS program file for the data. Copies will generally be available for \$25.00 plus tape cost and post and packing. (See also ABS Information Paper Cat. No. 6543.0).

In October 1983 the ABS conducted a survey in South Australia to obtain information relating to the consumption of alcohol by persons aged 18 years and over. Results of the survey were released in "Alcohol Consumption Patterns, South Australia, October, 1983" (ABS Cat.No. 4304.4). A magnetic tape file containing data for the sample involved is now available from the South Australian office of the ABS (see ABS Information Paper Cat. No. 4305.4).

## Healthy Figures

Some recent SSDA acquisitions pertain to the topics of physical activity and leisure time. The Commonwealth Dept. of Sport, Recreation and Tourism conducted two surveys on the activity levels of Australians: the winter survey (June/July, 1984) and the summer survey (January/February, 1985), each with a sample of around 3500. Respondents were questioned about their participation in physical activity during the 2 weeks preceding the interview. Using the latter survey a third data file was produced containing information on regular physical activity for the conscious purpose of exercise. All 3 data files have been deposited with the SSDA.

We have also received the data from the 1982/3 South Australian Leisure Activities survey from the S.A. Dept. of Recreation and Sport. Information was gathered in four quarterly surveys (to take account of seasonal variations), with over 4000 respondents each time. Data was obtained about participation in a wide range of sporting, recreational and social activities, apparent unmet demands, and reasons preventing participation.

For those interested in cross-national research in this field, we have just received from the Canadian Public Archives a catalogue of Recreation and Leisure data files. The ESRC Survey Archive in England and ICPSR in the USA also have sections of their large catalogues devoted to leisure and recreation surveys. (It should be mentioned that the Australian activity surveys mentioned above based some questions on a similar Canadian study). Further information on these and other overseas holdings is available from the SSDA.



## Public Opinion, 1943-1982

A recent deposit is that of eleven Australian Gallup Polls, one per month from February to December, 1982, plus one Victorian Election Poll (1982), from McNair Anderson. This adds to the already substantial number of opinion poll files in our holdings, namely eleven Gallup Polls (APOP) from 1943-1951, 69 Gallup Polls from 1953-1967, and 72 Gallup Polls from 1975-1981. We also have the data from 40 Age Polls (Melbourne Age and Irving Saulwick and Associates) from 1972-1981.



SSDA, BE IN IT!



## Looking Ahead

With the SSDA Bulletin now firmly established we should reflect on the promise of future deposits, many being offerings from Bulletin readers. We are currently awaiting confirmed deposits by researchers in the following fields: women's studies (roles, sexual attitudes), social welfare (SWRC research, training of social workers), housing (shared housing, land prices, movement to country areas, outback services), economics (Australian businessmen, career development), adolescents (nutrition, effects of unemployment, school to work transition, general concerns) and legal history (source materials). If you too have research data that you are willing to deposit or if you know of some data elsewhere that you consider suitable, don't hesitate to let us know.



November 1985

## National Social Science Survey

On October 22, the first version of data from the Australian National Social Science Survey (NSSS) became generally available to researchers. The research team of Jonathan Kelley and Robert Cushing from the Australian National University, and Bruce Headey from the University of Melbourne received funding from ARGS and the Research School of Social Sciences, ANU to conduct a major multi-purpose survey measuring a wide range of social and political attitudes.

Similar multi-purpose social surveys are conducted regularly in the U.S.A. (General Social Survey, NORC, University of Chicago, and National Election Studies, ICPSR, University of Michigan) in Britain (British Social Attitudes Survey, SCPR, London), and in West Germany (German General Social Survey Centre for Survey Research and Methodology, ZUMA). Much of the data in the NSSS are directly comparable with these other surveys.

This preliminary release is based on an urban sample only and excludes some variables still being processed. A future release will include comparable data collected from a rural sample. In addition it will contain variables concerning the detailed coding of occupation (into the new Australian Standard Classification of Occupations), information on respondent's spouse (education, occupation, income, party), union membership, and vote in the most recent Federal election.

### NSSS - Details

The NSSS data file contains 2197 cases and 602 variables. The main social and political items include government spending priorities e.g. foreign aid, defence, unemployment, social services; issues such as taxation, inflation, crime, business, uranium, poverty, women, and migrants; feelings toward prominent Australian political figures, overseas countries, Mr Reagan and Mrs Thatcher, and certain social and national groups; certain political structures and concepts such as government levels, the Senate, democracy, royalty and republicanism; and the possible military threat of some countries.

Other such items are confidence in our social institutions i.e. banks, police, government, the political parties, the military, universities and schools, the press, companies, trade unions, and small business; and perceived long-term priorities for Australia in the areas of the economy, defence, the environment, law and order, religion, the arts, humane ideals and patriotism.

A number of items cover personal feelings and beliefs, such as happiness, loneliness self-esteem, and control over life. Also, levels of satisfaction with activities, friends, general life, family, health, income and standard of living were measured. A section on religious and moral beliefs includes basic religious feelings and their importance, sexual morality, issues such as abortion and pornography, and perceptions of human nature.

This bulletin was produced by the Social Science Data Archives, Australian National University, GPO Box 4, Canberra, A.C.T., 2601. ((062) 49 4400 or 49 3809).

Information was also sought on life experiences, such as childhood and upbringing, employment history and attitudes to work, past voting behaviour and direct personal affects of governments, personal political and social action, perceptions of personal identity and power, current family relations and attitudes towards children.

Demographic information includes age, sex, marital status and history, children, birthplace, migration (if applicable), education, income sources, ownership of household items (e.g. car, telephone) and geographic location.

## Australian Values Study Survey

Data from the Australian Values Study Survey (AVSS) will soon be available through the SSDA. The AVSS was part of a major international survey undertaken to compare fundamental values in different countries throughout the world. The European Values Study was initiated in 1978, and was eventually extended worldwide to 28 countries by the end of 1984. In Australia it was sponsored by 17 Foundation members drawn from major companies, instrumentalities, organisations and academic institutions, and was managed by a Steering Committee chaired by Dr Don Edgar of the Institute of Family Studies. The Foundation has recently decided to release the data to the academic research community.

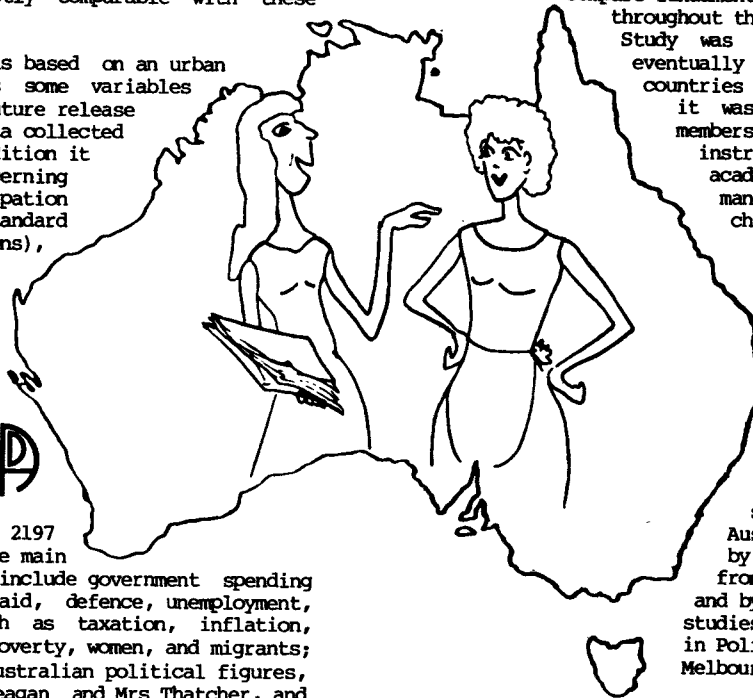
In mid-1983, the Roy Morgan Research Centre conducted fieldwork on a national probability sample which yielded 1228 interviews. The study sought to establish the significant characteristics of Australian values and attitudes, by comparison with the findings from the cross-national studies, and by comparison with panel values studies being conducted by the Program in Policy Studies at the University of Melbourne.

### AVSS - Details

The AVSS is specifically concerned with the dynamic relationship between attitudes and behaviours of individuals with regard to a variety of study fields. Social and political attitude variables include political affiliation and action, trade unions, nuclear energy and arms, illegal activities, prisons, drugs and alcohol, abortion, patriotism, confidence in our major institutions, business management, and aboriginal issues.

Questions concerning personal values and experiences covered the areas of leisure, levels of emotional experience, general life satisfaction, work and job satisfaction, religious beliefs and experiences, meaning and purpose in life, emotional priorities, family and home life, marriage and divorce, financial and economic considerations.

Demographic information includes age, sex, birthplace, nationality, languages spoken, level of education, employment status, approximate income, occupation, details of main income earner, household pets, home ownership, type of dwelling and size of town.





# SSDA Bulletin No. 6

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## Labour Force Studies

The SSDA now holds data from three important studies dealing with youth, labour force and labour markets. The first two are the 1983 and 1984 General Surveys carried out by the Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs (SSDA Studies No. 371 and 372) which look at unemployed youth and manpower programs. The third data set is Wave 1 of the Australian Longitudinal Survey conducted by the Bureau of Labour Market Research in 1984 (SSDA Study No. 377).

## ALS Wave 1 Level 1

The Australian Longitudinal Survey (ALS) is a multi-faceted longitudinal study, which aims to provide information on the labour market experiences of young people especially with regard to unemployment; to allow examination of the attitudes of the long term unemployed among the young, and their experiences and problems; and to supply data to assist in the evaluation of the Community Employment Program (CEP).

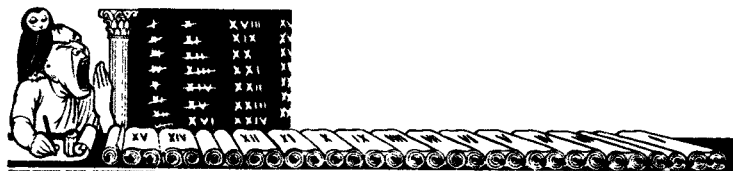
To achieve these aims, the survey consists of a number of components - a sample of young people from the unemployment registers (the 1984 list sample), a further sample representing all young people (the 1985 area sample), a sample of CEP participants (all ages) and a "control group" selected as a matched sample for the CEP participants.

The 1984 wave (the list sample) surveyed a sample of 3,000 people aged 15-24, drawn from Commonwealth Employment Service registers. In 1985 this group was surveyed again and supplemented by a similarly continuing population survey of 9,000 people of the same age cohort drawn randomly across Collector's Districts matching the CES offices from which the list sample was selected (the area sample).



The 1983 study produced 5675 cases for analysis. The 1984 survey was a reinterview of all overseas born respondents from the 1983 survey, plus half the Australian born sample, resulting in 2521 completed interviews. The principal aim in reinterviewing was to assess changes in the employment/unemployment status of respondents, and to verify and complement data collected in the original survey.

A report detailing preliminary findings, entitled "Reducing the Risk. Unemployed Migrant Youth and Labour Market Programs" was produced by AIMA in March 1985.



## Political Attitudes Data Sets

The Survey is aimed principally at examining questions related to long-term unemployment which are difficult to address using available sources of cross-sectional data. Labour market variables include job history, job search behaviour, job training and transition from school/study to work.

Background variables and topics related to the main labour market theme include education, occupation, health and attitudes to women working. Basic demographic variables include age, sex, size of household, country of birth, racial origin, parental education and occupation, spouse's education and occupation, income, religion and whether resident in an urban or rural area.

Recently arrived at the SSDA is a series of six data sets from surveys conducted for the United States Information Agency (USIA) and its predecessors, into Australian political, social and economic attitudes and opinions (SSDA Studies No. 378 - 383).

The studies were undertaken in Australia by the Roy Morgan Research Centre, between 1973 and 1980, and apart from questions on attitudes and opinions towards Australian political events, cover attitudes to the United States and its foreign policy decisions, Australians' perceptions of their country's relationship with the US, attitudes to the Vietnam War, and to the US establishing diplomatic relations with the Peoples Republic of China.

The dimensions of these data sets have not yet been fully established, nor have they been fully documented at this time; they should be made available for access to interested researchers later in 1986. If you are interested in obtaining further details, contact the SSDA.



## 3RD ACSPRI Summer Program



As the summer season is fast approaching, our thoughts here are turning to preparations for the 3rd ACSPRI Summer Program in Quantitative Social Science Methods, to be held at the Australian National University in Canberra, in February 1987. Details of Summer Program courses and activities have been circulated to your department with this bulletin. We hope to see you there!

## Travel and Migration News



Each person who arrives in or departs from Australia, whether as a short or long term traveller, or on a permanent basis, completes a questionnaire in the form of an Incoming and Outgoing Passenger card. The information collected in this way has been used up until now primarily in the provision of basic statistics on such arrivals and departures (see regular A.B.S publications on overseas arrivals and departures, cat.nos. 3401.0, 3402.0 and 3404.0). The SSDA has recently acquired from the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs two series of data files which provide that information in a machine-readable form allowing detailed analysis of travel movements and traveller characteristics to be carried out.

Series One (SSDA Study No. 403) covers the period 1975 to 1981, with data arranged in half calendar years. Characteristics available include sex/marital status, category of travel, country of birth, citizenship and stay, length of stay and occupation. This series is in matrix format.

Series Two (SSDA Study No. 404) is produced on a quarterly calendar year basis, beginning with the first quarter of 1980. The SSDA will receive regular updates to this series - current holdings are to the fourth quarter of 1985. Additional characteristics included in this series are age of respondent, reason for journey, state of stay and clearance, mode of travel and country of embarkation/disembarkation. Series Two is a unit record file release, and it is hoped that data from the two series could be used independently, or if desired, in a form which would allow analysis in time series.

Also from the DIEA comes data from a study examining more intensively those people leaving Australia permanently or for a long period of time (SSDA Study No. 406). The intention of this survey, carried out in January and February 1986, was to focus on the characteristics of those leaving, and to determine what Australia would lose in human resources by their departure. Those departing were asked to complete a questionnaire asking among other things, their reasons for leaving, their hopes for their life overseas, and if former settlers, whether looking back the decision to settle was a good one.

Studies such as this will provide an added dimension to the base of statistics already available in our overseas arrivals and departures series mentioned previously. If you have, or know of any available survey data which would further expand our holdings in the general migration area, the SSDA would be interested to hear relevant details.

## Focus on Nursing



In 1978 the Commonwealth Department of Health, after recommendations from a 1975 report, set about conducting a national survey of nursing personnel, with the aim of identifying the characteristics, distribution and priorities of nursing staff. A major objective with the carrying out of these aims was to provide data from all states and territories, which would be collected uniformly at a given time, thus avoiding differences in data collection and method between states. Data from this large study has just been deposited with the SSDA, to be made available to interested researchers for secondary analysis.

The National Survey of Nursing Personnel (SSDA Study No. 402) consists of four separate types of data - from health institutions, from professional (registered) nurses, from mothercraft nurses and nursing aides and from nursing students, mothercraft nurses in training and nursing aides in training. Information collected from registered nurses included details of qualifications, current and previous employment, reasons for leaving and returning to the profession, as well as basic demographic details such as age, sex and marital status. Those still undergoing training were also asked questions on preferences for training and reasons for choosing particular training schools.

The mail-out questionnaires were well received by respondents, and generally enjoyed a high response rate, with the total number of responses from registered nurses alone exceeding 90,000. Certain statistics and tabulations from the study have already been made available in published form, but the scope and size of the survey has precluded more detailed analysis being published. The survey provides an invaluable source of information to describe, analyse, plan and develop strategies for the nursing workforce, for educators, planners and researchers in the field. Further information on this dataset can be obtained from the SSDA.



"Now don't panic. Not everything was erased.  
We still have loads of data on rainfall, upholstery and jaywalking."





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This final SSDA Bulletin for 1986 is given over to details of a number of recent releases of large national data sets which have now been made available for secondary analysis, as well as a short rundown of other data sets deposited with the SSDA in the last few months.

## ALS Wave 2 Level 1



The SSDA has recently received the preliminary release of the Australian Longitudinal Survey, Wave 2 Level 1 (Study No. 410) carried out in 1985. The ALS project was initiated by the Bureau of Labour Market Research, and now comes under the auspices of the Australian Council for Employment and Training. Data from the first wave of the study has already been released by the SSDA (Study No. 377: for details see SSDA Bulletin No.6, May 1986), and this second wave is part of a series which will continue until 1987. This preliminary release contains data from the 1985 interview schedule only - a future data release will also include derived summary variables, as well as comparable information collected for each respondent from the 1984 Wave 1 of the survey.

Briefly, the ALS project attempts to address questions concerning long term unemployment which can't be adequately explored within a cross-sectional one time survey. Job history, time spent job searching and transition from school or study to the workforce can be charted in subsequent interviews with the ALS sample of respondents, who were aged between 15 and 24 and had been registered with a CES office for three months or more at the time of initial selection in 1984. Educational, occupational and health topics are also examined, and attitudinal questions to women in the workforce have been included in the interview schedule. Additional demographic information was also collected from each member of the respondent's household, in order to gain a basic overall picture of the circumstances and environment in which the respondent lives.

## 1984 Household Expenditure Survey

The third national Household Expenditure Survey (HES) was conducted by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 1984. The HES was carried out to obtain data on "household expenditure" - goods and services for private consumption - in order to be able to assess changes in income and expenditure patterns, to examine the differing patterns of disadvantaged groups (eg. pensioners and single parent families) and special interest groups (eg. migrants) as they compare with the general population, to make comparisons between the rural and urban sectors of the community, and to aid in the development of government policy and planning. The ABS has already published a number of information papers describing the survey and results, and has recently released a unit record data tape for secondary analysis.

Data for each household is arranged in two separate types of record. The first type contains information collected on household composition, numbers of persons in the household, background information such as age, country of birth, sex, employment status and occupation of both household head and spouse, as well as income data from business, salaries, government benefits and other sources. The second record type contains details of household expenditure on any of 419 separate expenditure items. Respondents completed interview schedules for expenditure and income, as well as completing a personal diary recording details of every payment made during a specified diary recording period.

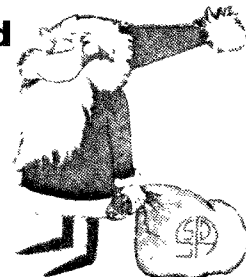
## ABS Family Survey, 1982



In 1982, the Australian Bureau of Statistics conducted an Australia wide survey to collect information on the characteristics of Australian families - the factors which influence family relationships, formation, growth and dissolution, and which determine the way in which families function. The ABS has published reports dealing with findings from the study (cat. nos. 4407.0 and 4408.0), and a unit record data file from the Family Survey has recently been released for analysis. An information paper describing the data tape and technical details (cat. no. 4412.0) should be available from ABS offices in the near future.

The survey was based on a sample of private and non-private dwellings covering approximately one third of one percent of Australia's population, and all in-scope persons aged 15 years and over, excluding those still at school, were interviewed. Information collected included size and composition of the family, age, sex, marital status and other demographic characteristics of family members, income and other financial support received by the family, use of child care services, support services received by the aged, and reasons for leaving the parental home. Data is available on four levels - households, families, income units, and persons - enabling records to be linked across different units, to broaden the scope of the analysis of family characteristics.

## SSDA Moving Ahead



The SSDA is continuing its steady growth of holdings of datasets, with numbers currently in excess of 410. Apart from the studies mentioned above, other deposits received in the second half of 1986 range from the continuing series of physical activity levels surveys conducted by the Department of Sport, Recreation and Tourism (studies no. 370, 384 and 411), through studies dealing with diet in adolescence (no. 385), gambling behaviour and attitudes (no. 389), circular migration and economic life in an Indonesian village (no. 390), university graduates in the labour market (no. 412), to a group of data sets dealing with both baseline information on arrivals in and departures from Australia (nos. 403 and 404) and more detailed analysis of permanent migration (no. 406).

We also have firm undertakings to deposit data from studies in such areas as employee attitudes to technological change, land and house prices in NSW, work roles and attitudes of social workers, sexual attitudes of adult women and teenagers, and sexual stereotyping and the role of women. This expansion indicates a growing awareness in both government and the academic community of the importance of preserving original survey data for future analysis. Can you contribute to this by either making data available, or bringing the role of the SSDA to the notice of colleagues who may have appropriate study data to archive? The SSDA would be most interested to hear from you!

This bulletin was produced by the Social Science Data Archives, Australian National University, GPO Box 4, Canberra, A.C.T., 2601. ((062) 49 4400 or 49 3809).





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## Overseas Data Holdings



In this the first SSDA Bulletin for 1987, we'd like to focus on a number of large overseas datasets acquired by the SSDA in the latter half of 1986. These data come to the SSDA through arrangements with foreign archives such as the ESRC Data Archive at Essex University, and the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) in Michigan, as well as other archival organisations in Canada and Europe. As this data exchange increases, the SSDA will be able to further complement its holdings of Australian study data, and to offer users wider scope for cross-national analysis. Contact the SSDA for further details on any of the data sets mentioned below.

## British Social Attitudes



In 1983, the first of an annual series of surveys into attitudinal movements in Great Britain, was carried out by Social and Community Planning Research (SCPR), based in London. Data from this survey, and from subsequent studies in 1984 and 1985 were deposited with the ESRC Data Archive, and have now been released to the SSDA.

The British Social Attitudes study, as it is known, will be conducted on an annual basis until at least 1987, with the aim of monitoring and assessing trends in attitudes in the community - towards politics, the economy, the workplace and other social and moral issues such as racial prejudice, gender, social class and religion. Interviews are drawn from a representative sample of persons aged 18 years or over, in private households in Britain, with total sample sizes 1761 (in 1983), 1675 (in 1984) and 1804 (in 1985). The data is similar in content to that collected as part of the General Social Survey carried out by the National Opinion Research Centre (NORC) at the University of Chicago. The British survey questionnaires have two parts, one administered in a personal interview, and one a self completion section left for the respondent to return. About half the questions will be repeated annually and the other half biennially, to allow for the introduction of new topics.

As well as the main surveys, a number of other projects have been funded to tie in with the main theme. Amongst these is a panel study from the series, being undertaken by SCPR, with approximately one third of the 1983 respondents being reinterviewed in 1984, and in 1985. In 1985, plans were developed to incorporate identical modules of questions, the initial set on government intervention and the role of government, into surveys being carried out in the USA (by NORC), in the Federal Republic of Germany, and in Australia. The Australian component is being carried by the National Social Science Survey project, being conducted through the A.N.U. Preliminary data from this study is held at the SSDA (Study No. 347).

## High School and Beyond



"High School and Beyond, 1980: A Longitudinal Survey of Students in the United States" is the title of a study conducted by the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) on behalf of the National Center for Education Statistics, in an attempt to provide a fuller understanding of the secondary school experience and its impact on students, as well as to collect data on lifestyle factors, such as family formation patterns, intellectual development and social participation. The base year survey was undertaken in 1980, and subsequent follow-ups in 1982 and 1984. The SSDA holds data from these three waves, which were supplied through ICPSR.

Baseline data (ICPSR Study No. 7896) was collected in Spring 1980 from 58270 high school students and 1015 schools, and eight separate files were produced for analysis - on students, schools, parents, languages spoken, teacher-sophomore relationships, teacher-senior relationships, twins and friends. Topics covered include school activities, attitudes and post-school aspirations, scores on specific ranges of tests (students); school attributes, curricula and programs (schools); plans for post-secondary education (parents); and opinions on students in the sample (teachers); as well as a range of basic demographic and family variables.

The first follow-up (ICPSR Study No. 8297) was conducted in 1982, and for the sophomore section, replicated almost all items in the baseline survey. The focus of questions for the senior cohort was slightly different, in that it emphasised post secondary school and work experiences. The 1984 follow-up (ICPSR Study No. 8443) attempted to contact all those who took part in the first follow-up, and achieved a final response rate of 91 percent. Respondents were asked to update background information, and event history formats were used to obtain responses about jobs held, schools attended and periods of unemployment. New items covered included detailed information on financial assistance received from parents, as well the level of computer literacy, use of computers and software, and programming languages.

## European Values Study



The European Values System Study Group has deposited with the ESRC Data Archive data from the European Values Study (ESRC Study No. 2062), which was conducted in 1981. This is a large cross-national survey of moral, religious, political and social values, interviewing persons aged 18 years and over, from France, Italy, Spain, West Germany, Denmark, Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Netherlands, Ireland and Belgium. Total sample size achieved was 12643.

Topics covered include religious attitudes, beliefs, practice and affiliation; moral outlook; political interest, inclination and participation; attitudes towards social reform, civic institutions, means of production; personal values and attitudes towards the family, marriage, divorce, and sex; work values; perceptions of the future; indicators of psychological wellbeing and general health ratings. Additional data was also collected on leisure activities, voluntary work, attitudes towards science, war, terrorism, and the shorter working week.

Since initial fieldwork was carried out, other Values studies have been undertaken in Argentina, Chile, Canada, Finland, Hungary, Iceland, Japan, Malta, Mexico, Norway, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, the United States, some parts of the Soviet Union, and in Australia. The SSDA holds both the European Values Study dataset, and data from the Australian Values Study Survey (SSDA Study No. 375).

## Election Studies



Also available from the SSDA are data sets from the 1984 Canadian Election Study, carried out by the University of Waterloo, Ontario, and the 1983 British Election Study (ESRC Study No. 2005). Please contact us for further details.

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## Data on Class Structure

The SSDA has recently received data from a significant study focusing on measures of authority, autonomy and property in relation to inequality. The "Class Structure and Class Consciousness: Merged Multi Nation File" (ICPSR 8413) brings together data from studies in the United States (1980), Sweden (1980), Norway (1982), Canada (1983) and Finland (1981) in one file, allowing for cross-national comparisons of results, or for separate analysis country by country.

Data collected measure how such social concepts as authority, autonomy and hierarchy relate to the social economic and occupational positions of individuals, thus providing a systematic means of analysing social class structure. Questions addressed work related issues such as supervision, decision making, autonomy, respondent's formal position in the hierarchy, ownership, credentials and income. Other work related data describe the size, industrial sector, and government or corporate linkages of the individual's employer. Further information was gathered on the class origins of the respondent's family and of the families of the respondent's spouse and friends. Data on class related experiences such as unemployment and union participation were also collected, as well as data on the division of power and labour in the household. The survey also contains a broad range of questions on social and political attitudes and on the respondent's political participation.

Detailed sampling information for each country is provided in the extensive documentation accompanying the data on tape. A total of 9012 respondents is represented in this data file, broken down into country totals as follows: United States 1760; Sweden 1145; Norway 2532; Canada 2577; and Finland 998.

For further information on acquiring a copy of the data, contact the SSDA.

## Multiculturalism and the Aged

At the end of 1986, the Australian Institute of Multicultural Affairs released data from three important Australian studies focusing on the ethnic aged, and on multiculturalism and ethnic broadcasting, to the SSDA.

"Ethnic Aged in Melbourne and Sydney, 1984" (SSDA No. 415) is the title of a study carried out by AIMA in 1984, sampling persons aged 60 years or over living at home in the two cities, who were born in China, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland or Yugoslavia. The study was conducted with the aim of providing quantitative baseline data on those ethnic aged at home, as well as providing comparative data for use with other studies without an ethnic focus (see SSDA No. 210, "Non-institutionalised aged in Sydney, 1981").

Topics covered include types of living arrangements, extent of family and community support, use of domiciliary and welfare services, problems experienced at home due to health, income or family circumstances, and unmet needs. Information was also collected on health status, physical mobility and independence, utilisation of services, employment and income, informal support networks and leisure activities including media usage. Background details include age, sex, birthplace of partner and parents, language facility, marital status and religious affiliation.

A complementary study "Ethno-Specific Services for the Aged in Melbourne and Sydney, 1985" (SSDA No. 416) surveyed residents of 31 ethno-specific accommodation facilities - hostels, nursing homes, and units - who were aged 60 years and over and who were born outside Australia.

This study sought information from residents on their general characteristics, decision to move to the facility, services provided, usual recreational activities, and attitudes towards their future. The survey instrument used was similar to that used in SSDA No. 415 (see above). Background details include age, sex, marital status, health status, ethnic identity, religious affiliation, English ability and previous residence details.

The third study, "Impact of Multicultural Television, Adelaide, 1985-1986" (SSDA No. 417) was conducted by AIMA in two waves, to assess the impact of multicultural television, as well as to explore attitudes to multiculturalism in the community generally.

A pre-transmission study, before the arrival of SBS-TV in Adelaide was carried out in May and June, 1985, and a post-transmission follow-up was conducted in June 1986. The study covered such topics as patterns of media usage (newspapers, radio and television); level of existing information on UHF and SBS-TV in Adelaide; perceived aims of multicultural television; government support for multicultural programs; and a twenty-nine item attitudinal scale, covering issues such as migrants and immigration, social distance and social interaction. The follow-up survey also included questions on multicultural television programming, types of programs, satisfaction with viewing, and frequency of viewing. Information was also collected on age and sex of the respondent, birthplace, occupation, education level, language facility, marital status, income and ethnic identity.

Access to Study No. 417 has been embargoed by the depositor until December 1987; however researchers can gain immediate access to Studies No. 415 and 416. Please contact the SSDA for more details.

## More A.L.S. Data

A further two waves of Australian Longitudinal Survey data have recently been deposited with the SSDA. The Australian Longitudinal Survey project has been running since 1984. The project was initiated by the Bureau of Labour Market Research, and is now under the auspices of the Australian Council for Employment and Training. Its principal aim is to provide the sort of in-depth data on long term unemployment and workforce history which is difficult to obtain using cross-sectional methods.

ALS Wave 3 Level 1 1986 (SSDA No. 420) is the third wave of the list sample of original CES registrants (for details on the first and second waves of the list sample see SSDA Bulletins No.6 and No.8). ALS Wave 2 Level 2 1986 (SSDA No. 421) is the second wave of the area sample, matching the CES sample to the general youth population, and originally surveying 9000 people aged between 16 and 25, in 1985.

Job history, time spent job searching and transition to school or study to the workforce can be charted across subsequent waves of the ALS sample. Educational, occupational and health topics are also examined and attitudes to women in the workforce have also been canvassed. Additional information has been collected from each member of the respondent's household, in order to assess the circumstances in which the respondent lives.

The SSDA now holds five separate ALS data sets - three waves of the list sample, and two waves of the area sample - and will continue to receive subsequent waves of the study. Contact the SSDA for more information.

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## DIRECT from the A.B.S.



In Bulletin No.11, we'd like to concentrate on two new reference sources which will be of interest to researchers and students in the social sciences, particularly those who frequently use secondary data and government statistics.

### New Catalogue to SSDA Holdings



Staff at the SSDA have been working diligently over the last eight months in the preparation of the updated and revised catalogue to all Social Science Data Archives holdings. This single volume, book form catalogue will replace the previous ring binder volume, which was last updated in 1984, and will include all studies previously documented, as well as those deposited since 1984. SSDA holdings of data from Australian studies now number 440, and this new format catalogue, with detailed entries and updated and streamlined indexes reflects the growing importance of the SSDA as a resource centre for the social sciences, and as an important repository for unique data collections.

The new catalogue will be divided into four sections: Australian non opinion poll studies; Australian opinion polls; Australian census holdings; and datasets received from overseas archives. Each study will have a detailed entry with information on dataset dimensions, sampling and access conditions, as well as a summarised abstract of themes covered and a list of principal publications.

All Australian studies have been carefully indexed using the Australian Public Affairs Information Service (APAIS) system of subject terms, to reflect the general topic areas covered. They will be listed separately by name of principal investigator, and by allocated subject terms. Subject terms will also be able to be cross referenced to allow the user to establish related studies which may be of interest.

Holdings of Australian opinion polls date from 1943 to 1983, a total of 224 polls. They have been indexed to a detailed question level, and entries organised chronologically. The index system used for this detailed level is based on that developed by T.W. Beed et al. in compiling the publication "Australian Opinion Polls 1941-1977". A brief description of each opinion poll type begins this section, along with information on background questions asked of each respondent.

Australian census holdings begin with the 1966 census, and are arranged by specific file releases. Information on 1976 and 1981 matrix tapes are presented with details of appropriate three character mnemonics, which indicate population characteristics which can be cross tabulated. A short description of the history and methodology of Australian census taking has been included.

Datasets received from overseas archives are described in the same way as Australian studies listed in section one, but are not included in the main indexes. The SSDA currently holds data from studies originating in the United States, Great Britain, Canada and West Germany, and has reciprocal arrangements with a number of other European archives to facilitate data acquisition. We also have extensive holdings of data from ICPSR in Michigan, which are not documented in this catalogue. Information on ICPSR studies is contained in the 1987 ICPSR Guide to Resources and Services, copies of which can be obtained from the SSDA.

This catalogue should be both an informative and comprehensive guide to our holdings, as well as a convenient and easy to use reference tool for locating studies of interest. Details on how to order the catalogue will be included in the next SSDA Bulletin (No. 12) in November. In the meantime, call or write to us at the SSDA if you would like to receive further publication details.

DIRECT is the name for the newest reference tool for obtaining information on statistics provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. DIRECT (Directory of Social Statistics) is an interactive database, for use with IBM microcomputers, and close compatibles. It enables the user to access information in a systematic fashion, on the majority of surveys on social issues such as health and education, conducted by the ABS since 1980. DIRECT will also facilitate the ordering of publications and specific tabulations directly from the ABS.

The database is organised in a hierarchical structure, with information available from the very broad topic level, to the very detailed data item level. The TOPIC level is the broadest - listing general areas of interest such as "children" "income" and "youth" - from which the user moves through the database to more detailed information stages. Moving on from the general topic area, accessing the PUBLICATIONS level will give the user details of ABS publications relating to particular subjects, and SURVEYS will provide information on data collected from ABS surveys relating to the topic area.

The survey section is further subdivided into DATA GROUPS (identified by a three letter code) and the more specialised DATA ITEMS (with the same three letter code plus an identifying number) which allow the user to reference particular survey questions.

The last step in this database, TABLES, allows the user to specify particular cross-classified tabulations from data items of interest, in an appropriate form for direct ordering from the ABS.

DIRECT comes as a package of three diskettes and a ring binder reference manual of operating procedures, for a total cost of \$110. More information can be obtained from the Data Services (Social) Section of the Australian Bureau of Statistics, P.O. Box 10, Belconnen, ACT 2616.

### Latest Acquisitions



Recent additions to SSDA holdings cover a wide range of topic areas, and include datasets from continuing studies, as well as those which stand alone. The 1983 Risk Factor Prevalence Study (SSDA No. 414) conducted by the National Heart Foundation, complements the first study carried out in 1980 (SSDA No. 122). Other ongoing study data includes the latest activity levels of Australians for January/February 1987 (SSDA No. 433), conducted for the Department of Sport, Recreation and Tourism, and the latest waves of the Australian Longitudinal Survey, previously described in more detail in SSDA Bulletin No. 10. Among the cross sectional studies acquired are a comparative study of business leaders in Brisbane and Melbourne (SSDA No. 436); Public Aspirations and Public Policy 1978 (SSDA No. 434) and Quality of Life, Victoria, 1981 (SSDA No. 435) which deal with social networks, social background, well being and life satisfaction; and a case study of redundancy in the white goods industry in Sydney (SSDA No. 438). In addition, a set of 9 Australian Gallup Polls conducted by the Roy Morgan Research Centre on various dates in 1966, 1967 and 1968, have been translated from their original punch cards to magnetic tape for permanent storage (SSDA Nos. 424 to 432).

All of these studies will be described in more detail in the SSDA catalogue. For further information prior to the publication of the catalogue, please write directly to the SSDA.



# SSDA Bulletin No. 12

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## Data? What Data?



With the publication of the updated SSDA Catalogue (see the accompanying brochure for details on how to order your copy), it seems an appropriate time to reflect on the functions of the SSDA, and to review the scope of SSDA activities over the last three years since the publication of the first SSDA Bulletin. To this end, Bulletin No.12 will be devoted to presenting a few examples of ways in which data supplied by the SSDA has been used, in order to illustrate the diversity of such applications, and to point to potential uses of our resources in the future.

## "Recycling" Data



SSDA Bulletin No. 1, November 1984, outlined some of the important functions of the archive, including the "recycling" of data by the secondary analyst to explore avenues of research not taken up by the principal investigator. The usefulness of this "recycling" is well illustrated in the activities of the Bicentennial Project - Youth Employment in Australia, sponsored by the Statistical Society of Australia. The SSDA has supplied copies of successive waves of data from the Australian Longitudinal Survey, a major Australian survey which charts among other things the employment histories of two youth samples over the last three years, to a number of SSA sponsored researchers in various Australian states. These researchers are analysing the ALS data to report on a number of youth and labour market issues, including transitions from school to work, youth unemployment in rural areas, comparative definitions of unemployment and job search behaviour. A conference in 1988 will bring together the results of these analyses, to present a clearer picture of the whole area of study. This project is an excellent example of a substantial resource for secondary analysis, the ALS data, receiving the sort of in depth attention from researchers that it merits.

## Teaching with Data



Another important area in which SSDA resources should be exploited is in the teaching of tertiary level courses which cover data analysis techniques and survey methodology. A recent request from the Department of Leisure Studies at a New South Wales C.A.E., for data for teaching purposes, amply illustrates this point. Data from the national Recreation Participation Survey 1985-1986 (SSDA No 388) conducted by the Department of Sport, Recreation and Tourism, was supplied to the college, for presentation in a simple form to undergraduate students. The opportunity was created for the students to learn to analyse data in a raw form, that had direct relevance to their course and areas of interest, and to produce results with a qualitative meaning because they were derived from actual data - data of national dimensions and with a variety of questions which could not possibly be collected in the usual amount of time allocated to an undergraduate course.

The SSDA is ideally placed to assist teachers in the use of such data. Printed documentation including details on the methodology of the survey and other information of interest, lists of codes used and copies of questionnaires, is distributed with each request for data. Machine readable set up files giving formats and variable locations, are provided on tape with the data, allowing the teacher to prepare class exercises without going through much time consuming preparatory computer work. SSDA holdings are wide ranging in subject area, and do not only include Australian datasets suitable for this purpose. Data from a number of studies obtained from overseas archives, particularly in the areas of social class and social structure, and political and social attitudes, could be used both alone, and in conjunction with similar Australian data for comparative purposes.

Apart from the significant role that the SSDA plays in the storage, documentation and dissemination of datasets, the archives also occasionally acts as a reference point for institutions or government bodies seeking information on particular topic areas. The SSDA has recently been able to assist officers from both the Commission for the Future, and the Federal Republic of Germany's Ministry of Research and Technology, by collating Australian data on attitudes to technological progress. Major national surveys such as the Australian Longitudinal Survey, the National Social Science Survey (SSDA No. 423) and the Australian Values Study Survey (SSDA No. 375) all contain questions dealing with this area. We were able to gather together this information, along with details of any relevant publications, to present to the organisations concerned. Information given to the West German government will be used to compare data for the past 30 years internationally. Details supplied to the Commission for the Future were used to compile a comprehensive report, to be used as a yardstick in measuring any changes in public attitudes in recent years and as groundwork for a future survey on this topic, to be conducted by the Commission.

On a smaller scale, the SSDA is often approached by individual researchers to provide information on surveys that touch on their particular field of study. As an example, we recently received an inquiry requesting information on magazine readership. Several questions from the Family Formation Study 1980-1981 (SSDA No. 334), the Macquarie University Political Attitudes Survey 1979 (SSDA No. 9), and the Australian Values Study Self-Completion Questionnaire 1983 (SSDA No. 422) were forwarded to the researcher who was then able to evaluate whether the data sets were of sufficient relevance to warrant acquisition for further analysis. Similarly, questionnaires from studies held by the SSDA have also been used by researchers as guides in the formulation of their own survey questions.

## Advertising the Product



Advertising the availability of datasets is an important task that the SSDA carries out, to facilitate the use of data in the ways listed above and to encourage secondary analysis. Within the archive there exists a wealth of data from surveys on diverse subjects that can offer primary resource material to interested researchers. These surveys are advertised regularly through the ACPRI Newsletter (produced by the SSDA) and this Bulletin, and are fully documented in our updated catalogue mentioned above.

For example, the SSDA has acquired a set of 6 surveys that were commissioned by the United States International Communications Agency, and conducted in Australia by the Roy Morgan Research Centre Pty Ltd. between 1972 and 1980. These surveys examine the Australian public's attitudes towards the superpowers and world affairs. Analysis and reports were not released publicly, and now, with the availability of these datasets, the opportunity exists for Australian researchers to investigate this important area of Australian social and political history using primary source material.

We believe that the role the SSDA fulfils within the social science community in Australia is an important one. The examples presented above would seem to support this conclusion, and serve to illustrate the wide range of uses to which our services can be put. The SSDA is continually expanding its holdings, and will continue to grow as a significant resource centre for social researchers. Hopefully this Bulletin has not only encouraged you to make use of our holdings in your own research, but has also emphasised the importance of your continuing support in making data available for archiving.



In this first SSDA Bulletin for 1988, we'd like to focus on a number of important datasets recently acquired by the SSDA, from within Australia and from overseas archives. As well, we'd also like to highlight an issue which should be of concern to many researchers using government data for secondary analysis - the latest pricing initiatives developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, which came into force at the beginning of 1988.

## The I.S.S.P. Project



The International Social Survey Program (ISSP) began in 1984 as a collaborative project between four research organisations - ZUMA in West Germany, NORC in the United States, SCPR in Great Britain and the Department of Sociology, RSSH at the Australian National University - to bring together existing national survey projects and add a cross-national dimension to data collected. Since 1984, ISSP has grown to include nine countries, and has developed three modules or themes for inclusion in surveys running from 1985 to 1987.

The first of these, the Role of Government (ZA Study No. 1490) has already been conducted throughout 1985 and 1986 by six of the participating countries. It was divided into four broad topic areas:

- \* Civil liberties - measures against extremism; invasion of privacy, power of police, freedom of publication etc.

- \* Government and the family - control of school curricula; family planning; divorce; looking after the elderly; housing; welfare provision etc.

- \* Government and social inequality - government's role in creating and correcting inequalities of race, sex, class, income, and education; equality of opportunity; perceptions of location of power within society.

- \* Economic intervention - import controls; measures to prevent unemployment and inflation; intervention in industrial disputes; consumer protection; government ownership of industry etc.

As well, the survey covered background variables such as current employment status, occupation, industry and sector of respondent and spouse; trade union membership; marital status and household composition; education levels and years at school of respondent and spouse; family income; religion and church attendance; political party affiliation and vote at last election; occupation of respondent's father; age, sex and whether resident in an urban or rural area.

The SSDA has recently acquired the codebook and dataset for the first six countries which have carried out this module of the ISSP program. The dataset is a merged file, with a country identification variable for the countries represented - Australia, Germany, Great Britain, the USA, Austria and Italy - to enable analysis of individual countries. A total of 7350 respondents are included in the file, with 141 variables per case. The printed codebook also provides basic frequency distributions for each variable, arranged by country. The study is now available for distribution to interested researchers - for further information, contact the SSDA.

## Australian Election Study 1987



The SSDA has recently acquired data from the Australian Election Study 1987 (SSDA Study No. 445), a national study carried out immediately after the 1987 Australian federal election. The study's goals were: firstly, to chart stability and change in the political attitudes and behaviour of the Australian electorate, over the two decades since the 1967 and 1979 Australian National Political Attitudes surveys; and secondly, to assess the electoral impact of issues specific to the 1987 election and its outcome.

Respondents were asked which party they voted for in the 1987 and 1984 federal elections; when they decided how to vote and whether they might have changed their vote; party identification; interest in politics; the importance of a number of issues and the media in deciding their vote; left-right positions for their own views and those of major parties in the 1987 and 1984 elections; feelings about the party leaders indicated by ratings from 0 to 10. A section on election issues covered perceptions of Australia's current economic situation and the extent of the effect of government policies on the economy; government spending; privatisation; the role of trade unions and big business; uranium mining; law and order; Asian migration; marijuana; abortion; aborigines; testing for AIDS; censorship; homosexuality; opportunities for women. Other questions examined trust in government; political goals and forms of political action.

Background information included level of schooling; highest level of qualification; current activity; occupation; employment sector; supervision; union membership; self-assessed social class; sex; age; length of current residence; country of birth of self and parents; year arrived in Australia; father's occupation; parent's schooling and political preference; marital status; number of children; partner's schooling, occupation, employment sector, supervision, union membership and political preference; religion and attendance at religious services.

A total of 1825 respondents, in a national random sample drawn from the Australian electoral roll, completed a mail-out, mail-back questionnaire, producing a data file with 195 variables and 4 cards per case. Contact the SSDA for more information.

## A.B.S. Pricing Policy



Have you ever analysed data produced from an Australian Census, or any other government survey? Have you made use of ABS statistical and information papers, or microfiche in your research? Have you been thinking about making use of these substantial resources in the near future? Do you know how much you could be paying now for these products and services supplied by the Australian Bureau of Statistics?

On January 1 1988, the ABS introduced a new pricing policy for its products and services, all of which will be allocated to one of three categories - public good services (including the free distribution of such publications as catalogues and information papers), standard services and special services.

Standard products and services are those produced in anticipation of general user demand and are made available in a variety of forms including publications, microfiche and magnetic tape. The price for standard magnetic tape releases will increase to a minimum of \$300 per reel, and to \$2000 per reel for unit record data released on tape. For example, each reel of magnetic tape containing small area summary data from the 1986 Census will cost \$300, and the Household Sample File from the Census will cost \$2000.

Special products and services produced to meet specific requests from users, will be set to a market level - for example, a special cross-classified table from the Census for the whole of Australia will cost approximately \$4100.

The next ACSPRI Newsletter to be produced by the SSDA in March, will provide more details on these issues. ACSPRI is also investigating the option of acting as a secondary provider of ABS products for redistribution. If you are concerned about the consequences of these initiatives, contact the SSDA for more information.

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